

Chief Warrant Officer Engeman enlisted in the Army when he was 18, and was stationed in Korea and Germany, and served in Kosovo and Operation Desert Storm. Two years ago, he moved with his family to West Virginia, where he was the active duty liaison between the National Guard and Reserves.

But he was more than a career military man; he was also a devoted father and husband, brother and son.

The soldiers in his unit called him a father figure and a great story teller. They recalled that whenever they needed advice, they always went to the Chief. They said they would follow him anywhere because he was a great leader, a good decisionmaker, and a good friend. And, they said, he loved to talk about his wife Donna or his two children, Nicole and Patrick.

So I can only imagine how he must have felt when the Army made special arrangements for him to watch his wife graduate from college. It had been a shared goal between the two of them, and on the day before Mother's Day, he sat half-a-world away and watched the dream turn into a reality. He ended that day by telling his wife how proud he was of her, and that he would call the next day to wish her a happy Mother's Day.

It was a call that would never come. Chief Warrant Officer Engeman's humvee would be struck by a roadside bomb later that evening.

From the earliest days of the Republic we have held a special place in our hearts for those families who have lost a loved one in war. Later this week, as part of the White House Commission of Remembrance, the family of Chief Warrant Officer Engeman will be honored, along with the families of other soldiers, sailors, and marines who have been lost in combat.

It is altogether right and fitting that we do this. Chief Warrant Officer Engeman answered the call to duty and served with honor and distinction. He won the respect of his soldiers and the admiration of his country.

But those truly timeless qualities—his laugh, his quirky smile he would give you when you needed his advice, and his love for his family—will live in the hearts of his wife, children, sisters, and parents forever.

All of West Virginia joins with me today in keeping the Engemans close in our hearts and prayers.

ESTABLISHING A FEDERAL STATUTORY FIRST AMENDMENT PRIVILEGE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, The Senate Judiciary Committee has considered and for the first time reported a bill to establish a Federal statutory privilege to safeguard the freedom of the press. The Free Flow of Information Act, S. 2035, is bipartisan legislation that was reported on a strong bipartisan vote. The House has already passed legislation on this same subject,

H.R. 2102, with a strong, bipartisan and apparently veto-proof majority of 398 to 21. Thus, both S. 2035 and H.R. 2102 are available for Senate action on the Senate business calendar. I strongly support the enactment of a Federal shield law for journalists, and I urge the Senate to promptly consider Federal shield legislation.

All of us have an interest in enacting a balanced and meaningful first amendment privilege. Sadly, the press has become the first stop, rather than the last resort, for our Government and private litigants when it comes to seeking information. This is a dangerous trend that can have a chilling effect on the press and the public's right to know.

Enacting Federal shield legislation would help to reverse this troubling trend. In fact, proceeding promptly to consideration of this legislation is something I strongly support. Should the Senate take up the bipartisan shield bill that overwhelmingly passed in the House, Federal shield legislation could go immediately to the President's desk and be signed into law without delay this year.

The Senate bill has the support of a bipartisan coalition of Senators, including Senators SPECTER, SCHUMER, LUGAR, DODD, GRAHAM, and myself, who have all united to cosponsor this legislation. In addition, more than 50 news media and journalism organizations support this legislation, and the call for Senate action on this historic bill extends to editorial pages across the country, including the New York Times, Arizona Republic, L.A. Times, Salt Lake Tribune, and San Francisco Chronicle, among others.

The Senate and House bills protect law enforcement interests and safeguard national security. Moreover, both of these bills follow the lead of 33 States and the District of Columbia which have shield laws, and many other States, including Vermont, which recognize a common law reporters' privilege. Tellingly, the Bush administration has not identified a single circumstance where a reporters' privilege has caused harm to national security or to law enforcement, despite the fact that many courts have recognized such a privilege for years.

When he testified before the Judiciary Committee in favor of Federal shield legislation in 2005, William Safire told the Committee that the essence of newsgathering is this:

[I]f you don't have sources you trust and who trust you, then you don't have a solid story—and the public suffers for it.

On behalf of the American public, I urge the Senate to protect the public's right to know by promptly considering and passing a Federal shield law.

KINGDOM GEMS OF VERMONT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased to stand before the Senate today to tell my friends about Vermont's Northeast Kingdom—a place

that is known as much for its natural beauty as the rural and industrious Vermonters who have settled there.

This region, defined by the three northeastern-most counties of Vermont that sit between the headwaters of the Connecticut River and the U.S.-Canadian border, became one of America's first National Geographic geotourism destinations. The designation highlights the character and sense of place that has come to define the dozens of mountain valley communities that sit in Orleans, Essex, and Caledonia Counties.

My wife Marcelle was born in the Northeast Kingdom, just south of the Canadian border in the city of Newport. Since then, like many Vermonters, we have often found ourselves heading to this part of Vermont to visit friends, go for a hike, or find a special place to have a meal. The people of the Northeast Kingdom have made this region of Vermont advance while carefully holding on to the key elements of their identity. Whether they are crafting furniture from the forests of the north woods or diversifying their family farm, these individuals have helped the communities of northeastern Vermont grow.

This autumn, Michelle Edelbaum and Daria Bishop of the Burlington Free Press published an article about a trip the two of them shared through the area, and I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the text of the article offering a glimpse into these "Kingdom Gems."

There being no objection, the materials was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From The Burlington Free Press, Sept. 30, 2007]

KINGDOM GEMS

(By Michelle Edelbaum)

When trees scream with crimson, gold and orange, head to the Northeast Kingdom for world-class leaf peeping.

With foliage in mind, photographer Daria Bishop and I spent a day exploring the towns, shops and people that make the area special. We strayed from our loose plan to follow locals' hand-drawn maps down scenic dirt back roads to not-to-miss destinations.

On our 13-hour tour we didn't reach half the locations on our list, which included classic attractions Cabot Creamery, Great Vermont Corn Maze, Stephen Huneck's Dog Mountain and Fairbanks Museum. But we did visit a handful of gems worth a stop.

GREENSBORO

Twenty-eight years ago an enthusiastic David Smith and his wife, Willie, took over Highland Lodge in Greensboro from his parents and fostered a community-centric gathering place that hosts out-of-town guests and community gatherings. "The Walking Ladies," a group of 55 women who range in age from 40 to 86, meet thrice weekly in the dining room for coffee and muffins after they exercise.

On their recommendation we ate moist, sugar-crusted blueberry muffins, from-scratch blueberry pancakes and a fluffy cheese and veggie omelet with McKenzie sausage links. After breakfast, we set out on the lodge's 30 miles of trails from a grove of soaring pine trees decorated with colorful placards of children's artwork, courtesy of the lodge's summer campers.

In Greensboro village two stores dominate the retail scene. The Miller's Thumb, housed in a former grist mill, is filled with local artwork, fancy kitchen knickknacks, Italian pottery and antiques. Watch water rushing under the red building through a plexiglass-covered hole in the floor.

At Willey's Country Store, customer Doug Aronson of Woodbury declares "if you can't find it here, you can't find it anyplace." Wine, appliances, groceries, hardware and clothes are sold at the town institution, housed in a rambling white building that dates to the 1800s and has been owned by the Hurst family for five generations.

CRAFTSBURY

Look up as you approach Pete's Greens in Craftsbury. The roof of the farm's serve-yourself stand is laden with trailing plants, flowers and herbs. Peek inside at artful displays of colorful organic vegetables.

Consider yourself lucky if you hit Stardust Bookstore and Cafe on the idyllic Craftsbury Common during its limited school-centric hours. The store, run primarily by students from Craftsbury Academy, sells new and used books, coffee and espresso drinks inside the quaint 1940s former public library. Part of the proceeds are given to nonprofit organizations and granted as scholarships.

Just outside of town down a long dirt road lies Craftsbury Outdoor Center, on Great Hosmer Pond with 10 kilometers of trails open for biking and hiking. Ski director John Brodhead suggests spending an afternoon canoeing, mountain biking, walking with a naturalist, kayaking or relaxing in an Adirondack chair by the lake.

GLOVER

Untold treasures lie within Red Sky Trading Co. in Glover. Owner Cheri Safford's whimsy is on display in the unique and colorful assortment of vintage house wares, Melmac resin dishware, trays, china tea cups, garden decor, picture frames and more, that fill the maroon barn.

Buttery cookies, dense bars and rich chocolate cakes from Safford's kitchen share counter and refrigerator space with Vermont cheeses, natural sodas and local produce. Don't miss Safford's award-winning canned jellies, jams, bread and butter pickles, chutneys and pickled beets—just like Grandma made.

Between a bank of beer coolers and a rack of chips at Currier's Quality Market Inc. stand three stuffed deer and a black bear; turn the corner into the postal area and you'll come face-to-face with a 948-pound moose. More than 100 taxidermy animals are on display in the one-stop shop, including a porcupine, wild boar, ram and British timberwolf.

Jim Currier, who's owned the store for 40 years with his family, started the ever-growing collection 25 years ago with a deer head from his father. Hunters with a mount at the store earn "bragging rights," said Currier's daughter Julie McKay. Coming soon: a red fox, possum, and snow goose.

By 4 p.m. we hadn't eaten lunch and regretfully skipped Bread and Puppet Museum and its "Cheap Art." We missed Mount Pisgah in Barton, with stunning views of Lake Willoughby, biking in Burke at Kingdom Trails, and a mandarin orange chicken salad at River Garden Cafe. We also passed on flat bread and microbrews at Trout River Brewing Co. in Lyndonville and coffee and chit-chat at Miss Lyndonville Diner.

ST. JOHNSBURY

Instead we split for St. Johnsbury, where local-food-centric Elements Food and Spirits, like many destinations in the Northeast Kingdom that have irregular hours, isn't open on Monday.

At Kham's Thai, chef and manager Souki Luangrath, whose Essex Junction-based parents own the restaurant, says quality ingredients are a priority—he even deveins shrimp. Our refreshing late lunch included fresh spring rolls filled with crisp veggies, savory coconut Tom Kha soup and saucy panang curry with chunks of vegetables.

Railroad Street in downtown St. Johnsbury is home to several dozen independently owned shops and restaurants. Moose River Lake and Lodge Store sells jewelry with a Southwestern flair, Adirondack and Amish-style furniture, fine wine kept in a walk-in vault, art by illustrator Philip R. Goodwin, quality sportswear and home decor.

Scottie Raymond, formerly an employee at Outdoor Gear Exchange in Burlington, recently opened Kingdom Outdoors, which sells technical outdoor wear and gear. Raymond inked the graffiti-style mural in the skate shop and lounge downstairs.

During the day, hit Dylan's Caf for creative breakfast and lunch combinations, the newly opened Village Baker for artisan bread and pastries, or Boxcar and Caboose for coffee drinks and books. If you have time, check out PODO Shoes, the Northeast Kingdom Artisan Guild and Gallery and Frogs and Lily Pads.

DEVELOPMENT, RELIEF, AND EDUCATION FOR ALIEN MINORS ACT

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I plan to vote in support of the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act of 2007, better known as the DREAM Act.

The thousands of talented and hard working children and young adults who were brought to this country by their parents had nothing to do with the decision to disobey our laws.

I strongly believe this bill will strengthen our communities, our economy, and our military by requiring that undocumented students demonstrate good moral character, prove completion of a college or graduate degree, or serve in the U.S. military for 2 years in order to earn legalized status.

I urge my colleagues to support the DREAM Act.

NATIONAL PHYSICAL THERAPY MONTH

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of National Physical Therapy Month. What we currently celebrate as National Physical Therapy Month began in 1981 as a week long celebration in the month of June. In 1992, that week was extended to a whole month and was moved to October.

National Physical Therapy Month focuses attention on the value of physical therapy to one's health and the contributions of physical therapists to the health of their communities. This year National Physical Therapy Month is focusing on obesity because physical activity is a crucial component of weight loss and better health.

My understanding of physical therapy has greatly increased over the past several months. I owe a debt of gratitude to a great many doctors, nurses,

and therapists who brought me through the darkest moments of my life and who are walking with me on the road to recovery.

I am blessed to work with professional and talented physical therapists as I continue my recovery. Their confidence in my ability to improve is infectious, and my physical therapists motivate me to work harder than I thought possible. I am confident that with my hard work and the dedication of my physical therapists, my potential to improve is limitless.

Throughout my career in the U.S. House and Senate, I have strongly supported expanding access to all kinds of health care professionals. Physical therapists provide critical services to their patients. In a rural State like ours, where they may be the only provider of these services in their community, physical therapists greatly improve patient access to care and quality of life.

This year the Senate is considering the Medicare Access to Rehabilitation Services Act which would repeal the annual Medicare outpatient cap on certain physical and occupational therapy services and the Medicare Patient Access to Physical Therapists Act which would authorize qualified physical therapists to provide services for Medicare beneficiaries without requiring a physician referral. It would also provide for treatment of outpatient speech-language pathology services separately from outpatient physical therapy services. I am pleased to support both of these measures, and I commend them to my colleagues for their consideration.

I encourage everyone to consider with their health care professionals how physical therapy might benefit them, whether recovering from an accident or illness or seeking preventive care. National Physical Therapy Month is a great time to learn more about the benefits of physical therapy.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a treaty which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:22 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the